

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 6-9, 14-17, and 20-37 are pending; Claims 1-5, 10-13, 18, and 19 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; Claims 20-37 are newly added; and Claims 6, 8, 14 and 16 are amended. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-3, 6, 8, 10, 14, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 1-5, 10, 12, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Higa et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,295,102, hereafter Higa); Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Higa in view of Yamanami (U.S. Patent Publication No. 20010035921); and Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Higa.

At the outset, Applicants thank Examiner Chien for the interview granted Applicants' representative on September 7, 2005. During the interview, the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph was discussed. As agreed during the interview, this rejection has been withdrawn.

Additionally, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter and Claims 6-9 and 14-17. Because Claims 1-5, 10-13, 18, and 19 have been canceled herewith without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, it is respectfully submitted that claims 6-9 and 14-17 are now in condition for allowance.

Newly added Claims 20-37 recite features supported by the original specification but also not disclosed or suggested by the applied references. For example, independent Claim 20 recites that the close contact member allows the first thin plate and the second thin plate to be slid in the second direction. Claim 28 recites analogous features.

By contrast, according to Higa, as shown in Figure 3, an upper substrate 11a and a lower substrate 11b are sealed by a seal 23 and a liquid crystal is inserted between the upper substrate 11a and the lower substrate 11b. As a result, the upper substrate 11a and the lower substrate 11b cannot be slid.

Moreover, Claim 28 recites that the second close contact member is fixed to the second thin plate, and the second close contact member is slidably engaged with the first close contact member so that the first thin plate and the second thin plate are slidable in the second direction with each other. As explained above, the display of Higa does not have a slidable configuration, and also fails to disclose or suggest the claimed first close contact member and the claimed second close contact member. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 20-37 are also in condition for allowance.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and present amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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